has been regularly and repeatedly monitored over the past century, implies genuine and dramatic changes in number and distribution. Further research and exchange of information will, we suggest, be helpful in better understanding the causes for the genuine population increase and range expansion of the starling and perhaps of these two other species.

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First record of Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* in Wallacea

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During a birding trip in March 2006 along the northern peninsula of Sulawesi, we observed a number of Red-rumped Swallows *Hirundo* (*Cecropis*) *daurica*, which were then unknown to occur on Sulawesi, or indeed in Wallacea.

On 6 March, between 06h30 and 07h20, we saw several hirundines behind the Pulisan Jungle Beach Resort, near Pulisan village (01°40'N 125°8'E, Likupan district, Minahasa Utara regency, Sulawesi Utara province) in the far north-east of Sulawesi. The birds had very pale underparts, one with discernible streaks at the breast-sides at most, and another with a slightly buffy-rufous wash on the throat. At 08h30 on 8 March at least four more birds were seen above cultivated fields inland from Pulisan village; apart from a pale rufous rump, their black vents, stocky appearance, rather elongated body and slower wing-beats with much gliding distinguished them from Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*, and their long forked tails from Pacific Swallow *H. tahitica*, both of which were also present. The pale, only faintly streaked underparts distinguished them from most races of Striated Swallow *H. striolata*, which are always boldly streaked (Carter 2000), and of which resident populations occur in the Philippines and Greater and Lesser Sundas (Coates & Bishop 1997, Turner 2008). The only faintly streaked local race of Striated Swallow in the region, the Malay race *badia*, has deep rufous underparts (Turner & Rose 1989), and is even treated as full species, Rufous-bellied Swallow, by Turner (2008). The presence (in Red-rumped) or absence (in Striated) of a chestnut collar could not be assessed because the flying birds were seen mostly from below. However, in both Red-rumped races *daurica* and *japonica* the collar can be incomplete and loses its value as a specific distinction. No Red-rumped Swallows were seen in the same area during a visit by SvB in March 2007.

Owing to problems with field identification, the status of Red-rumped and Striated Swallows in the region is unclear. On Sumatra both species are poorly known (van Marle & Voous 1988, Holmes 1996), on Borneo only Red-rumped has been recorded with certainty (Mann 2008), while on Java only Striated has been recorded until now (MacKinnon & Phillipps 1993, Sukmantoro *et al.* 2007). Barn Swallow is the only migratory swallow previously known to occur on Sulawesi (Coomans de Ruiter 1954, Sukmantoro *et al.* 2007). However, the presence of Red-rumped was to be expected, since the species is a regular visitor to Australia (Carter 2000), where the first birds were recorded as recently as 1983. In Papua New Guinea the first Red-rumped Swallow was recorded in 1974 (Filewood 1974), with a subsequent increase in numbers, while the first record for Indonesian New Guinea was in 1994 (Coates 1990, Gregory *et al.* 1996).

The presence of both Red-rumped races *daurica* and *japonica*, winter visitors from Central and East Asia, has been confirmed in

Malaysia (Wells 2007) and Australia (Palliser 2002, Higgins *et al.* 2006). The faintly streaked and partly buffy-rufous underparts of the present birds suggest *daurica* rather than *japonica*, which is heavily streaked but without buff below (Turner 2008).

Whether the increase in records of Red-rumped Swallow is indicative of an actual increase of numbers, or solely due to an increased number of birdwatchers in the area, is uncertain. This is a distinct species, although confusion may have occurred with the superficially similar Tree Martin *Hirundo* (*Petrochelidon*) *nigricans*, of which wintering (from the southern hemisphere) and resident populations are found in the Moluccas, Lesser Sundas and New Guinea (Coates 1990, Coates & Bishop 1997). Interestingly, Pilgrim & Tordoff (2010) recorded an expansion of the breeding range of *H. d. japonica* in a southerly direction into Vietnam.

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Nesting record of Blood-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum sanguinolentum* in Gunung Merapi National Park, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

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Blood-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum sanguinolentum* can be found in hill and montane forest, and forest edge, mostly from 800 to 2,400 m (MacKinnon & Phillipps 1993) on Java, Bali and the Lesser Sundas (MacKinnon & Phillipps 1993, Sukmantoro *et al.* 2007). The nest was hitherto unknown (Cheke & Mann 2001). The only recorded clutch had one white egg (Hoogerwerf 1949), although two is probably normal (MacKinnon 1991). In West Java, the species has been recorded laying in January, August, October (Cheke & Mann 2008) and December (MacKinnon 1991). Here I report my observations of the nest, chicks and nesting behaviour of the species.

On 25 March 2008, around 12h30, at 966 m on Turgo hill, Gunung Merapi National Park, Yogyakarta, Java, Indonesia (7°35'18.58"S 110°25'26.90"E), I saw a male Blood-breasted Flowerpecker frequently flying to and from a tree. It aroused my curiosity, so I decided to get closer, being careful to avoid any disturbance. From one spot, I could see that the bird was visiting its nest. I had insufficient time to observe the contents of the nest but activities suggested that there may have been chicks. Four days later, on 29 March 2008, I returned to the location and watched for about three hours, from 09h14 to 12h10. Although it was cloudy, I was still able to observe clearly the activities at the nest tree, from a distance of c.7 m.

The nest was suspended 6–7 m up on a leafy twig of an *Acacia* tree growing in a villager's front yard. The nest was small and egg-shaped, with an entrance that faced west. The structure was c.20 cm long, about 15 cm across, and apparently made from grass and ferns (Plate 1). It contained two chicks, with dark blue upperparts, yellow underparts and black or dark-coloured heads. One chick appeared to be bigger, and had a bright yellow bill with a black tip to the lower mandible. The other chick was, overall, similar in appearance but lacked the black tip to the lower mandible. Based on their unfeathered appearance and closed eyes, I inferred that the chicks were not more than five days old.

During the three hours of observation, I did not see the female attend the nest. This seems to be unusual, because in the related Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trochileum* both male and female nurture the chicks (K. Baskoro *in litt.* 2008). The time between feeds varied from twice in one minute to an interval of 40 minutes. During my observations, the chicks were fed 26 times. The food was taken from an arboreal parasitic plant that grew on a tree not far from the nest, and appeared whitish-green: perhaps the inner part of the flower.

When feeding the young, the male adopted two positions. Mostly, it hung onto the outside of the nest by its feet so that it could face the chicks directly. This feeding position lasted for c.2–5 seconds each time. The other position, used only once, involved the male perching above the nest on the twig from which it was suspended, and putting its head into the nest. This lasted for about 15 seconds. After the male departed, the chicks would often wait in front of the entrance with their bills out. Sometimes, although the male was not present, the chicks would stick out their heads and open their mouths wide in a begging behaviour. It seemed that this behavior was exhibited when the nest swayed in the wind. Defaecation was also observed. The chick positioned its back in the entrance with the cloaca facing outwards. The faecal matter was long, brown and straw-like.